

## CVM eNews - February 2019

C Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine <cornellvet@cornell.edu>

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Susanne K. Whitaker



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Cornell University  
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eNews

## February 2019



### Message from the Dean

Though only in the second month, 2019 has already been a busy year for the college.

- The third annual Animal Health Hackathon was a great success. We saw approximately 125 students and 17 teams develop business and product ideas for a diverse set of issues in veterinary medicine. Congratulations to the winning teams: Lean Preen Machine, Farm Speak and Stay on Track.
- Earlier this month, we commenced our multi-year partnership with the Westminster Kennel Club during its annual dog show in New York City. This included providing clinical care for the event, hosting alumni and friends of the college and staffing an information booth for visitors and show participants. I thank all of you who participated for making it such a success.
- The latest issue of 'Scopes was published and features [a brand new website](#) to showcase its content. This is our annual report issue, which closes out 2018 with an international theme that reviews student, faculty and alumni work around the globe.

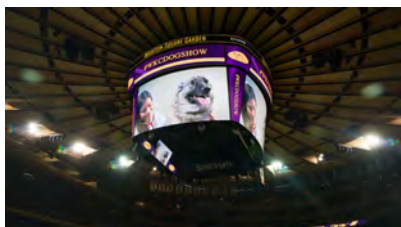
We now turn to the weeks ahead, with the [Class of 2020 White Coat Ceremony](#) coming up on March 16. I am looking forward to celebrating with class members and your families at this event, which marks another step in your journey to join the veterinary profession.

Lorin D. Warnick, D.V.M., Ph.D. '94  
Austin O. Hooey Dean of Veterinary Medicine

## Latest News



[Hackathon looks to solve animal health issues](#)



[Caring for the best: Cornell at Westminster](#)



[The latest issue of Scopes showcases the college's international impact](#)

## February Trivia

Look out for the answer to this month's trivia question in March's eNews!

What does the Coggins Test diagnose?

**Canine infectious hepatitis**

Select

**Bovine viral diarrhea virus**

Select

**Equine infectious anemia**

Select

January's trivia question: The first issue of "The Cornell Veterinarian" published in 1911. When did it cease publication?

Answer: 1994. 25% of you answered correctly! The entire archive of "The Cornell Veterinarian" can be read online on [the Cornell Library's website](#).

## Community Notes

## Many Voices, One College

A monthly diversity and inclusion dialogue series

This month's topic:

**Many Voices, One College – A Year in Review**



**Wednesday, February 27th**

Noon to 1pm in the green room (52-223) adjacent to the Café  
Food will be provided



### **Staff Council Spotlight on the Wildlife Health Center!**

**CVM Paw Walk:** Keep an eye out for our new indoor mile route, which will be marked by paw prints starting at the first floor entrance to the CVM Center Atrium. Starting in March, the route will take walkers through various areas of the college as a fitness option during the winter months. Read through our wellbeing newsletter to learn more.

**BYO lunch series** brought to you by the **CVM Staff Council!** On the first Wednesday of every month, from noon-1 p.m. at a table outside the cafe, you can come meet your staff council and bring any questions or concerns you might have.

White Coat for the Class of 2020 is on the horizon! [Learn more about this year's schedule here.](#)

**New Cornell Appreciation Portal:** The university has launched a new campus-wide appreciation portal. It supports Cornell's culture of appreciation by celebrating an employee's contributions and achievements.

### **Hellos, goodbyes and HR update**

### **CVM in the News**



[\*\*The New York Times: Time to put Fluffy and Fido on a diet?\*\*](#)

Our experts offer recommendations and guidance on the best nutrition for dogs and cats for The New York Times.



[\*\*Healthline: HPV vaccine protects teens who are vaccinated and even those who aren't\*\*](#)

Cynthia Leifer, Ph.D. '00, talks to Healthline about the effectiveness of the HPV vaccine against the sexually transmitted disease.

## Have Ideas to Share?

Let us know what you want to see in the Community Notes portion of eNews. Contribute events and articles which might be of interest to your colleagues and the CVM community at large.

Send in your submission by 3/15/19 to [cornellvet@cornell.edu](mailto:cornellvet@cornell.edu). Make sure to put eNews in the subject line so that your item can be considered for the next issue.



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## Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

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# Hackathon looks to solve animal health issues

🐾 Wednesday, January 30, 2019 - 3:55pm



Student teams brainstorm ideas at the Cornell Animal Health Hackathon at eHub in Collegetown. Photo by Rachel Philipson.

Following an oil spill, the race is on to save affected wildlife, especially birds. It takes three workers 45 minutes to clean each animal with soapy water, a method that hasn't changed in the last 20 years.

A team of students has designed a new product that could save millions of birds and other wildlife. The Lean Preen Machine was unveiled at the 2019 Cornell Animal Health Hackathon, Jan. 27 at eHub in Collegetown.

In addition to soap and water, the team's design incorporates a sonicator, an existing technology used by jewelers and dentists, which sends safe, high-frequency sound waves through the liquid. The waves agitate and remove oil particles from feather barbules in a fraction of the time soapy water and splashing can take. In addition, the design frees up one worker per cleaning unit to attend to other animals. That's important as many birds die while waiting to get cleaned.

The Lean Preen Machine team walked away with two of four \$2,000 prizes at the hackathon, winning Most Innovative Solution and the People's Choice Award.

"From the judges' perspective, we were really impressed that they were able to take an existing technology and very quickly convert it into something that could be used and that there is a huge unmet need for. And with the People's Choice, the audience obviously agreed," said Jodi Korich, D.V.M. '97, associate dean of education at Cornell's College of Veterinary Medicine and one of six judges.

The hackathon was co-hosted by the College of Veterinary Medicine and Entrepreneurship at Cornell and offered a total of \$8,000 in prize money. Approximately 125 students formed 17 teams to develop business solutions to a diverse set of issues in veterinary medicine. The teams – featuring students from nearly every college and school on campus, and some from other universities – developed their products in a blitzkrieg of activity over the weekend. Teams consulted with mentors, and IBM offered a workshop on design thinking. Products were judged on such criteria as relevance to veterinary medicine, scale of impact, novelty, commercial viability, financial feasibility, marketing potential and innovation.

"We saw a range of different products and solutions that really show the breadth of veterinary medicine," Korich said.

The Lean Preen Machine team went through a few iterations – including employing a pedal-powered laundry machine and using gentle water jets, like in a hot tub – before settling on the sonicator, said team member MJ Sun, a fourth-year Cornell veterinary student.

"We spent a long time trying to make sure this product is safe for birds," Sun said. "Their bones are hollow and are connected to other [delicate] parts of their body, so it would be traumatic if we damaged those crucial parts."

Another team designed a system called Farm Speak, a subscription service to help farmers and non-English speaking laborers overcome language barriers to report on cow health at dairy farms. Farm Speak won for Best Market Ready Solution.

When migrant workers who interact daily with cows detect signs of disease, they can mark it on laminated sheets with diagrams and categories in their native language. These sheets are then photographed by a tablet in the barn, and an app automatically collates all the information for the farmer to download from a database.

"We wanted to come up with a solution that would help but at the same time be cost-effective," said Inder Khanuja, a Cornell graduate student and a Farm Speak team member. According to the team, early detection to prevent mastitis on a dairy farm can increase milk production by 9 percent, and the service would cost a farmer about \$100 per month.

The Stay on Track team – which proposed a simple, cheap and quick assessment for signs of orthopedic disease in racehorses – took the Best Vet Med Healthcare Solution award.



The hackathon was co-hosted by the College of Veterinary Medicine and Entrepreneurship at Cornell and offered a total of \$8,000 in prize money. Photo by Rachel Philipson.



"We saw a range of different products and solutions that really show the breadth of veterinary medicine," said Jodi Korich, D.V.M. '97, associate dean of education.


Judge Sarah Cutler Tew, senior manager for medical outreach at IDEXX, said entrepreneurship plays an important role in veterinary medicine.

“You can have really big problems with hard answers, but there are lots of times where for a smaller problem, you need a fresh set of eyes,” she said. “Big companies have great resources but tend to move slowly, so the entrepreneurship will really bring new technology and new approaches to solving problems.”

By Krishna Ramanujan

*This story also appeared in the Cornell Chronicle.*

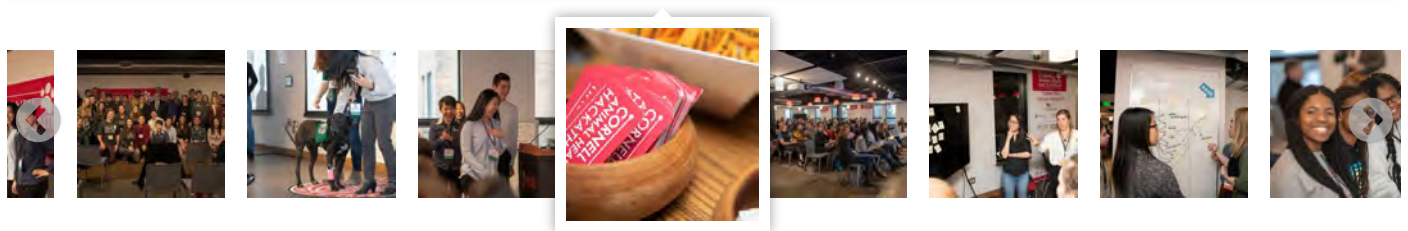
Wednesday, January 30, 2019 - 3:51pm

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Animal Health Hackathon 2019. Photo by Rachel Philipson.

Animal Health Hac







## Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

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### Caring for the Best: Cornell at Westminster

🐾 Monday, February 18, 2019 - 2:07pm



From the velvety jowls of the Neapolitan Mastiff, to the slender frame of the Saluki, to the bouffant hairdo of the Dandie Dinmont Terrier, doggy diversity is on its most glorious display at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. But whether a pup is of sporting, working or toy ilk, they will all need veterinary care at one point or another — and, for the best of the best show dogs this year, Cornell veterinarians were there to provide it.

[Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine](#) and its Stamford, Connecticut-based satellite clinic [Cornell University Veterinary Specialists](#) (CUVS) are now the official provider of veterinary care at the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show as part of a multi-year deal. Cornell veterinarians and students made their debut at the event last week, staffing both an informational booth and a veterinary medical care stations at the three-day event.

“It was a tremendously rewarding and educational opportunity for our veterinarians and students to provide care to the show dogs and consultation to their owners,” said Lorin D. Warnick, D.V.M., Ph.D. ’94, the Austin O. Hooey Dean



of Veterinary Medicine. “We were honored to be able to showcase and share our expertise with such a passionate community of dog lovers, and we look forward to building on this relationship in the years to come.”



Cornell veterinarians, students and staff stand outside the veterinary care station at the Westminster dog show.

## A new partnership

The collaboration is thanks largely to Ed Hershey, a longtime board member of the Westminster Kennel Club. After sitting next to Warnick at a Westminster dinner three years ago, the two of them struck up a friendship that led to Hershey’s recommendation that Cornell provide official veterinary care for the show.

Hershey also wanted to highlight Cornell’s veterinary expertise, with which he had become well-acquainted. Hershey currently has two dogs, Crush the boxer and Kisses the French bulldog, who are patients of CUVS. Clinicians there developed a unique treatment plan for Kisses, who has a rare form of cancer. “The care they received was really terrific,” said Hershey. “And I thought it would be great if we could inform people more of all the work that’s going on veterinary medicine right now.”

Hershey pitched the idea to Westminster and Fox Sports, which produced several video vignettes featuring Cornell veterinarians and special canine patients cases. Four of these vignettes aired on the Jumbotron during the Best in Show event in Madison Square Garden, and key portions aired on network television during the event.



A Neapolitan Mastiff competes at Madison Square Garden.

## Sharing knowledge

Education on veterinary medicine carried over to Cornell's informational booth at the WCK Dog Show. There, college veterinarians and veterinary students chatted with visitors about specialty and general veterinary medicine topics, including [theriogenology](#) (breeding and genetics); [sports medicine and rehabilitation](#); and [dentistry and oral surgery](#). Each day of the three-day event, hundreds of show-goers stopped by at Cornell's booth to ask questions or simply share how much Cornell had made an impact on them and their pets.

"I had a great experience," said third-year veterinary student Amanda Stewart. "A lot of the visitors have been really thankful for Cornell and have just come up to say, 'Thank you, Cornell saved my dog'."

"We've had a lot of high school students that want to become vet students come up to us," Stewart added. "I have also wanted to be a veterinarian since I was a kid. I told them I love vet school, have learned a lot and that it's doable, it's just hard work."

Brian Collins, D.V.M. '94, section chief of the [Community Practice Service](#) at the Cornell University Hospital for Animals (CUHA), fielded a series of questions, ranging from raw diet, to toenail injuries, to intrahepatic liver shunts.



Third-year veterinary student Amanda Stewart and Brian Collins, D.V.M. '94, chat with visitors to the Cornell information booth.

## High-stakes care

As a Westminster first-timer, Collins noted some differences between his patients back in Ithaca vs. those at the Westminster show. “Most of the animals we treat back home are pets who aren't involved with showing or breeding, but their health is of course just as important,” he said. “But when we think about those patients, we might not be thinking as much about what it might be passing down to his or her puppies...we’re usually thinking more about the individual patient’s health.”

Treating show dogs, and treating them at Westminster, is the definition of high-stakes care. Dr. Lacey Rosenberg, a member of CUHA’s theriogenology service, has experience breeding and showing Cavalier King Charles Spaniels. “For people in the dog showing world, it’s all about getting to this point — getting to Westminster. There is no higher honor.”

Corene Bruhns, a second-year student and a recipient of the Westminster Kennel Foundation Scholarship, was up for the challenge of working at Westminster. “At school, we have the time to work through the entire case. Here, people are nervous, dogs are nervous, it’s a very different environment, but everyone was really supportive of everything, so while it was definitely a bit nerve-wracking it was also really exciting.”

Bruhns and her fellow veterinarians and students saw a range of issues, from non-serious conditions such as a light limp and diarrhea, to the more concerning — including a possible case of pyometra, or infection in the uterus. “That was the one case we sent out to get immediate medical attention,” she said.





Dr. Nadine Fiani provided show goers with information about her specialty, dentistry and oral surgery, as well as other veterinary care topics.

## For the love of dogs

Despite the pressure, the experience was positive for the on-call veterinarians and students. “People were really excited to see Cornell here,” said Bruhns. “It’s a well-recognized name, and people were happy to come over to just talk to us.”

This exposure to show dogs and the people who care for them was beneficial for students, said Dr. Mariana Diel de Amorim, a theriogenologist at CUHA. “They really get an understanding of how much it takes to show a dog. It’s a lot of investment. These are pure bred, health-vested animals, these people usually pay more money than they make doing this,” said Diel de Amorim. “They don’t do it for the money — they do it for love.”


These owners were also enthusiastic about Cornell’s care and expertise. “I was thrilled to see the enthusiasm Cornell sparked in dog owners and other show visitors,” said Dr. Susan Hackner, CMO and COO at Cornell University Veterinary Specialists. “From owners of patients we treated at the show, to previous clients who stopped by to say thank you, it was just a wonderful reception and a privilege to be able to work with the Westminster Kennel Club.”

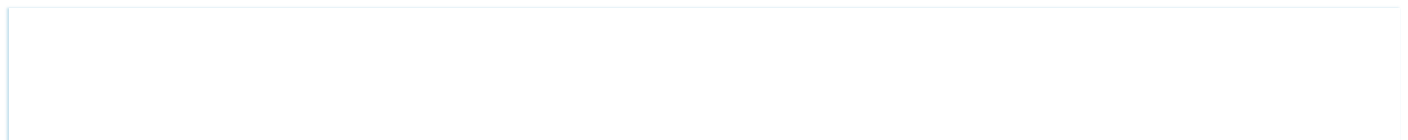
With both dog lovers and Cornell veterinarians learning from one another, the Cornell-Westminster partnership promises to be a fruitful one for years to come.

*By Lauren Cahoon Roberts*

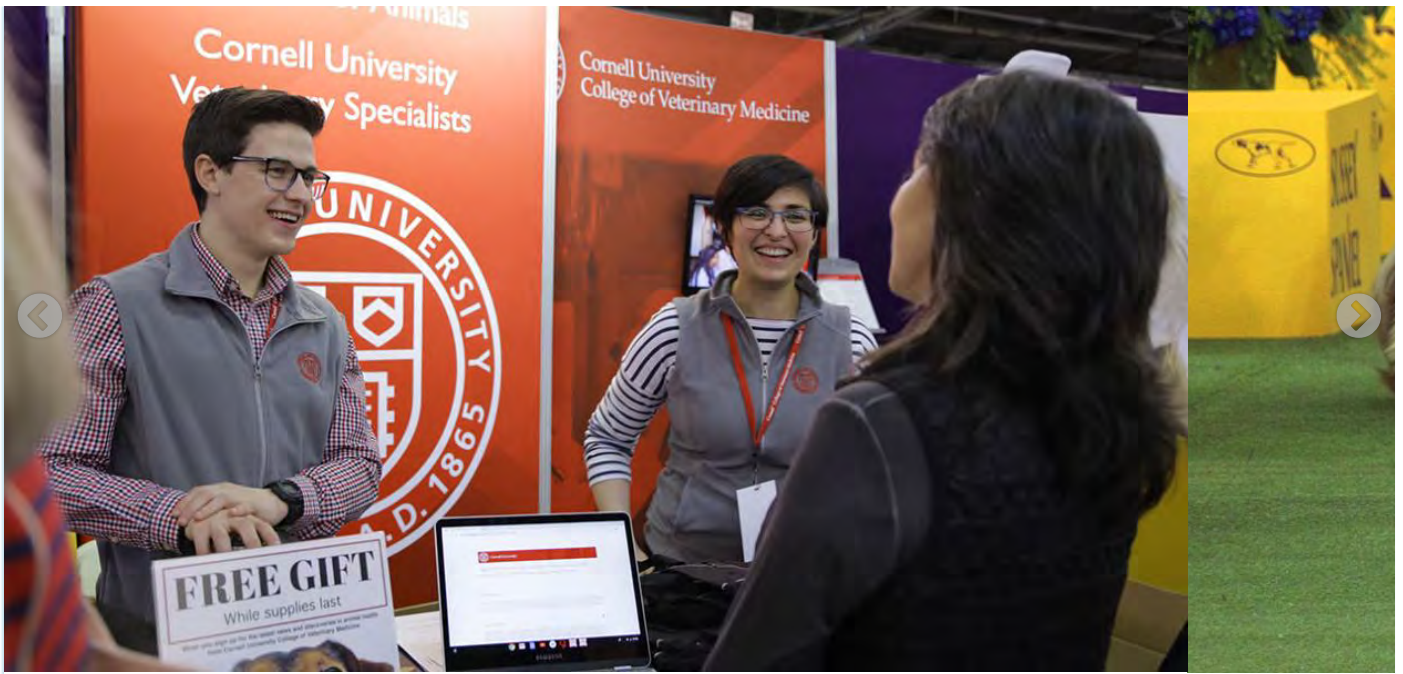
*Photography and video by Esy Casey*

Thursday, February 14, 2019 - 9:22am

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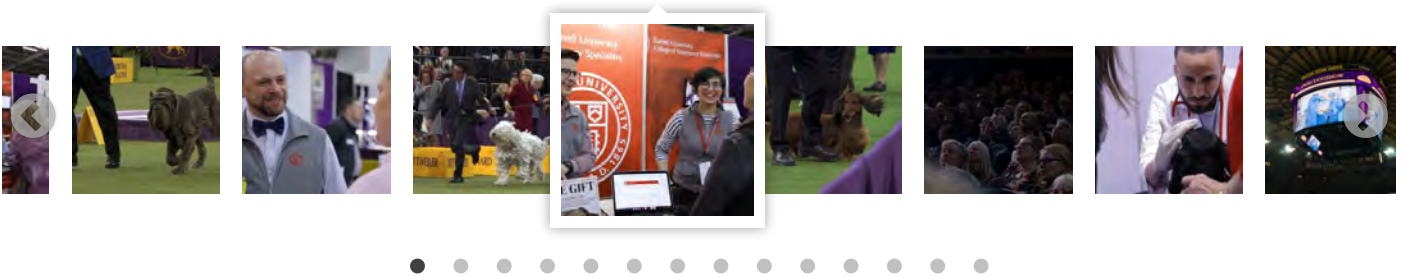


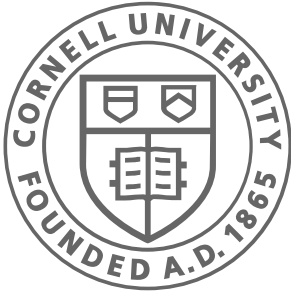




At the 2019 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. Photo by Esy Casey.

At the 2019 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show. Photo by Esy Casey.





Cornell University  
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# MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

## ANNUAL REPORT 2018

**NOW MORE THAN EVER, ANIMAL AND HUMAN HEALTH ISSUES REQUIRE SOLUTIONS THAT SPAN ACROSS OCEANS AND BORDERS—AND THE CORNELL UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF VETERINARY MEDICINE COMMUNITY IS ALREADY AT WORK.**

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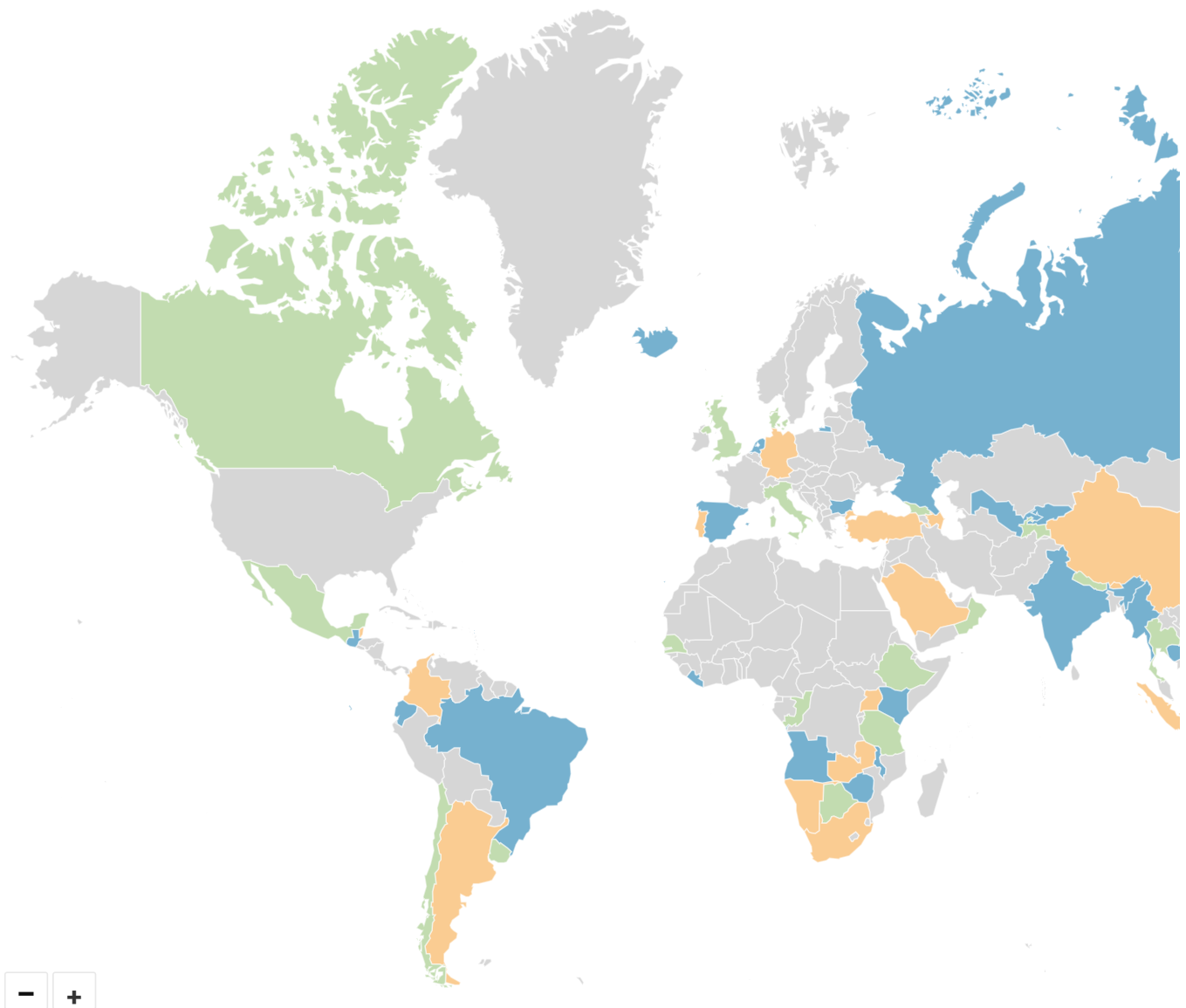
CVM alumni are well-suited  
to fight threats to animal...

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### **CVM EXPERTS IN THE NEWS**

Our top media hits from  
the year

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## MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE

This map gives a snapshot of the college's international [impact](#): the efforts of our students, faculty and staff, and alumni make across the globe as they seek to improve the health of all species. For a school that is geographically isolated, the college still manages to be everywhere. From tracking carnivores in the Africa, spaying strays in makeshift clinics in Eastern Europe, to teaching disease prevention in Central America—CVM continues to earn its reputation as a place that takes planetary health to heart.

Click on the links below to view the global accomplishments of each Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine communities.



## DEAN'S MESSAGE

Dean Lorin D. Warnick, D.V.M., Ph.D. '94, looks back on the year and discusses our international impact.

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## NOTEWORTHY AWARDS RECEIVED BY FACULTY & STAFF

An overview of the many accolades and accomplishments earned this year by faculty and staff

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## FEATURED ARTICLE ARCHIVE

### Dean's Message

Dean Lorin D. Warnick, D.V.M., Ph.D. '94, looks back on the year and discusses our international impact.

### Students Around The Globe

College of Veterinary Medicine students have long pursued highly diverse interests across the globe — whether in wildlife conservation, public health, food animal production, [disease](#) ...

### Faculty Around The Globe

When it comes to international efforts, CVM faculty are the fulcrum between energized students and engaged graduates.





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## Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine

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### Staff Council Spotlight on the Wildlife Health Center

The CVM Staff Council is pleased to highlight the Wildlife Health Center (WHC) in the February 2019 edition of CVM eNews. The WHC, located on Hungerford Hill Rd., is a self-sufficient hospital, dedicated to providing exceptional veterinary care for native wild animals.



WHC Staff, from left to right: Sue Faso, Alice Van Demark and Tina Hlywa

Recently, the WHC staff took a few minutes out of their busy day to talk to the CVM Staff Council about the work they do.

**Staff Council:** How many staff work at the WHC, and what roles do staff play?

**WHC:** In addition to faculty, three house officers and three rotating zoo and exotics faculty, the WHC employees three licensed Veterinary Technicians with a range of background experiences with wildlife and exotic species. The WHC also employs several Veterinary Student Technicians, and has a robust Student Volunteer program. The staff have to be Jacks-of-all-trades to keep the Center running smoothly. On a daily basis staff monitor and provide treatment for patients of diverse species, prepare patients and equipment for surgical procedures, assist with surgeries, take radiographs, and maintain the facility. The staff also train student technicians and volunteers and interact with the public by answering phone calls, admitting animals and providing referrals.

**Staff Council:** How does one become a Wildlife Veterinary Technician?

**WHC:** You have to complete a two-year Veterinary Technician certification program, but the rest is on-the-job training. We all have the desire to work with a diverse variety of animals and to treat animals that would not otherwise be cared for.

**Staff Council:** What types of animals can be helped at the WHC?

**WHC:** Most of our patients are native wild animals that are ill or orphaned, and brought in by members of the public (finders). We also take animals from local, licensed wildlife rehabilitators. Seventy percent of our patients are birds of all species, from hummingbirds to eagles. In the winter we tend to see predominantly raptors, while in the spring and summer we admit more songbirds. From May to October we are also busy with mammals such as squirrels, rabbits, groundhogs, beaver, coyotes, foxes, porcupines, and even the occasional bobcat. Two percent of our patients are reptiles and amphibians. Currently there are ducks, turtles, owls and hawks in the hospital. We do not turn any animal away unless we are not permitted to treat them. Once we even treated a butterfly!

**Staff Council:** Which animals are you not permitted to treat?

**WHC:** We do not accept rabies vector species; raccoons, skunks, or bats. We also don't treat owned, captive wildlife, with the exception of animals from USDA-permitted rehabilitators who have permanently captive wildlife for educational purposes. We don't treat adult deer or adult bear either. We have referral protocols for the species we can't treat, so please contact us if you need guidance.

**Staff Council:** What happens to the animals when they are finished with treatment?

**WHC:** Most patients are transferred to licensed wildlife rehabilitators to make sure they are healthy and strong. When they are, they are released if possible.

**Staff Council:** What is the most difficult part of your job?

**WHC:** The hardest part of the job is handling animals that are injured due to human carelessness or lack of education. We have seen waterfowl that have been trapped in fishing line, animals that have been purposefully abused (fortunately, this is very rare) and animals caught by domestic cats. While cases such as these are difficult, they provide us with the opportunity to discuss wildlife issues with finders and educate them.

**Staff Council:** What is the best part of your job?

**WHC:** The best part of the job is treating animals that would have died without our support, allowing them to recover and be released. We like knowing we make a difference for patients that otherwise would not be cared for. It is particularly gratifying to see an injured animal that is uncomfortable and has no interest in food, heal and develop an appetite while in our care. Interacting with the finders who bring injured animals to us is important as well. Their trust in us, and appreciation for our work is rewarding. We also enjoy teaching the veterinary students and veterinary technician students that volunteer. To see the students develop in their skills and knowledge in wildlife medicine due to the time they have spent at the center is invaluable.

**Staff Council:** What would you like people to know about the Wildlife Health Center?

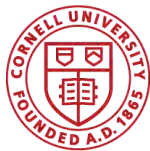
**WHC:** If you have a question or an injured animal to bring in, please call 607-253-3060. The center, which is located at 131 Swanson Drive, off of Hungerford Hill Road is open 8am-5pm, Monday- Friday. The staff is also on call after hours and on weekends to answer questions and receive animals. If you need assistance after hours, please call 253-3060.

**Staff Council:** Thank you, Wildlife Health Center Team, for being our CVM Staff Council's February Spotlight! We enjoyed speaking with you and learning what you do. To learn more about the Wildlife Health Center, please go to their website <https://www.vet.cornell.edu/hospitals/janet-l-swanson-wildlife-health-center>

Next month, the Spotlight will be on the Biobank. Have ideas or suggestions for an upcoming *Spotlight*? Email us at [cvmstaffcouncil@cornell.edu](mailto:cvmstaffcouncil@cornell.edu)!

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# Cornell University

## College of Veterinary Medicine

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## White Coat Ceremony

### Class of 2020 White Coat Ceremony

Saturday, March, 16, 2019

Time	Description of Events
1:15pm -1:30pm	Class of 2020 DVM students arrive to Bailey Hall and go to basement for coat distribution. Line up for ceremony.
1:30pm -1:50pm	Family and friend may mingle with the deans and members of the faculty who will be available for informal conversation in advance of the ceremony in the foyer outside the auditorium.
2:00pm	<b>CEREMONY</b> Ceremony begins, Class of 2020 process in, followed by Dean's welcome. The ceremony includes each student being called by name to the stage accompanied by their coater.  The coat is presented to the student. The class recites the Veterinarian Oath. This years' keynote speaker is Dr. Lisa Freeman '86, President of Northern Illinois University Class Photo
4:30pm	<b>RECEPTION</b> Reception immediately following ceremony with light refreshments in CVM Center Takoda's Run Atrium.  <b>The ceremony will be live streamed and recorded.</b> Link will be distributed via list serv that you can send out to your remote audience, the <b>week prior</b> to ceremony. Only those with the link will be able to locate the webcast. The same link will become an on-demand file about a half hour after the end of the event. A week later, a high res mp4 file will be available upon request through Student Services at <a href="mailto:vet_sas@cornell.edu">vet_sas@cornell.edu</a> .  <b>Handicap Accessibility</b> -Bailey Hall Bailey Hall has a large staircase up to the entrance of the auditorium. . There is an elevator entrance! On Bailey Plaza, while facing the staircase, go left of the building. You will find double glass doors and just inside the doors, immediately to your right- the elevator.  It is highly recommended that you drop off guests that have difficulty walking, climbing stairs and are using canes, walkers and wheel chairs at Bailey Hall. There is a large staircase to climb after parking at Forest Home parking garage.  Handicap accessible parking is available around Bailey Hall. You may park in these spots as long as you have a handicap parking tag.  DO NOT PARK IN SPOTS WITH DESIGNATED LICENSE PLATE NUMBERS; YOU WILL BE TICKETED.

## Cornell offers new ways to express appreciation

February 21, 2019

The new **Cornell Appreciation Portal** (<http://cornellappreciation.awardco.com/>) gives supervisors, faculty and staff an online venue for congratulating each other, recognizing a milestone or achievement, and showing their appreciation to one another.

“We know that timely recognition is valued and appreciated and can go far in our efforts to create a culture of gratitude and belonging,” said Mary Opperman, vice president and chief human resources officer. “In a busy organization such as Cornell, we sometimes forget to take a moment to say ‘thank you’ or ‘well done’ to our co-workers and colleagues. This portal can make it easier for all of us to share that appreciation.”

### HOW TO USE THE CORNELL APPRECIATION PORTAL

- Log in to the Cornell Appreciation Portal (<http://cornellappreciation.awardco.com/>) (cornellappreciation.awardco.com) with your Cornell NetID and password (you can bookmark this link for convenience);
- Select the “Recognize” button or use the menu bar at the top of the page. (You can view your own recognitions on “My Profile”);
- Type the name of the person you want to recognize;
- Type a brief message;
- Select a hashtag: Apply a “Skills for Success” hashtag (#integrity, #inclusion, #vision, #communication, #initiative, #judgment, #growth) or a general #congrats to celebrate a service anniversary or personal milestone.
- Click “Recognize”: an email notification is sent to your recipient.

The Cornell Appreciation Portal – launched through a partnership with Awardco employee recognition software – allows all faculty and staff with a NetID to recognize in writing an achievement or milestone the moment it happens.

Another feature allows supervisors to periodically award nonacademic and bargaining unit staff small tokens of appreciation, in the form of points redeemable at Amazon and The Cornell Store. Awards are between 10 and 75 points, and can be spent when received or accumulated over time and redeemed later.

“The Cornell Appreciation Portal celebrates employee contributions and achievements through simple, meaningful, no- or low-cost recognition,” said Kim Babuka, director for compensation for Cornell Human Resources. “Similar programs are growing in popularity across organizations and businesses nationwide.”

The appreciation portal is part of Cornell’s efforts to provide comprehensive, universitywide recognition and appreciation, with formal components including spring and fall employee celebrations, recognitions for completing academic degrees, celebrations of years of service, awards for excellence in service, just-in-time kudos and spot recognitions. There are universitywide events, and events and opportunities within individual colleges, departments and units.

An earlier version of the portal launched in March 2018 for the 2018 Service Awards program. The Cornell Appreciation Portal now consolidates length of service recognition with the just-in-time kudos and spot recognition, allowing employees to combine their recognition points across programs.

“The beta testing was so popular with employees that appreciation messages are already being used in real time and populating the portal,” Babuka said. “Some of the messages are welcome notes to new employees, encouragement to team members working on projects, and congratulations to colleagues on

achievements and milestones – all of which enhance engagement and support meaningful connections among Cornell staff.”

If you have questions or feedback about the Appreciation Portal, email [recognition@cornell.edu](mailto:recognition@cornell.edu) (<mailto:recognition@cornell.edu>). **Learn more about Cornell’s appreciation and recognition programs** (<https://hr.cornell.edu/our-culture-diversity/appreciation-and-recognition>).

#### **MEDIA CONTACT**

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# Cornell University

## College of Veterinary Medicine

CVM >

## February 2019: Hellos, goodbyes and HR update

Help us welcome new employees who joined the CVM community in January and bid a fond farewell to those who have retired.

### New Hires

- **Martyn Blackmore**, Veterinary Technician, Cornell University Hospital for Animals
- **Jingyi Chen**, Technician III, Department of Population Medicine and Diagnostic Sciences
- **Mark D. Mayerhoefer**, Medical Technologist I, Animal Health Diagnostic Center
- **Ann E. Tate**, Project Associate I, Department of Biomedical Sciences
- **Danielle E. A. Teed**, Lab Processing Assistant III-Receiving, Animal Health Diagnostic Center
- **Katelynn Corinne Wagner**, Administrative Asst IV, Department of Clinical Sciences

### Retirements

- **Scott Baxendell**, Manager of Equine Park, Veterinary Curriculum
- **Barbara L. Catlin**, Veterinary Technician Team Leader, Cornell University Hospital for Animals
- **Sherri Stull**, Administrative Asst III, Cornell University Hospital for Animals
- **Marsha M. Zgola**, Wildlife Technician Asst., Cornell University Hospital for Animals

## Human Resources Update

### NEW!! Appreciation Portal

We are very excited to announce that the University is launching a new campus-wide [Appreciation Portal](#). Please watch for the [official announcement in the February 22 edition of PawPrint](#). The portal enables the community to recognize staff successes or milestones the moment they happen! Areas to celebrate could include extraordinary behaviors, high impact project completion, exceptional innovation, outstanding performance and substantial work effort.

The portal can also be used by the entire Cornell community to send personal and private messages of appreciation to colleagues. The messages are tagged to show how behaviors link to Cornell's Skills for Success. The Portal is a great way to introduce a new CVM employee to Cornell's culture of recognition by sending a welcome greeting during their first 30-60 days.

CVM supervisors may recognize their staff with tokens of appreciation in the form of points (dollars) awarded in amounts from 10 to 75, which are redeemable at Amazon and The Cornell Store. Supervisors may also send non-monetary kudos and thank you messages to staff as well.

The portal is live now. You are welcome to log in, look around to get a feel for the tool, and send your staff a message! We would appreciate hearing your feedback!

### Appreciation and Recognition

The many ways we say, "Thank you!" At Cornell, we are committed to cultivating a culture of appreciation that celebrates our employees' achievements and contributions throughout the year. Success relies on all of us!



It is easy to get focused on the tasks at hand – the emails, the meetings, the projects and to-do lists – and forget to say, “Thank you!” or “Well done!” And yet, it is often those simple, timely gestures that have a profound impact on our attitude, productivity, and feelings of belonging.

## **Appreciation Portal**

An easy-to-use appreciation portal that allows for quick, just-in-time messages to peers across the university. It's a thank you note, without having to pull out a card! The system empowers our employees to recognize a colleague's success or milestone the moment it happens. Simply sign in and share your message privately with the individual. Please see below for additional information.

## **Informal Recognition**

It's easy and meaningful to recognize the efforts and accomplishments of employees and peers for their work every day, as well as after the completion of projects both large and small. [Check out ideas](#) for low cost and no-cost individual and group recognition.

## **Events**

Special events such as High Five RED Days and Employee Celebrations are a broad campus-wide informal show of appreciation for our hardworking employees.

## **Awards**

The university stewards several award programs intended to formally honor our employees for outstanding performance. Some are campus-wide recognitions, while others are specific to colleges, departments and units. Recognize an exceptional employee, supervisor or fellow colleague by nominating them for a variety of campus awards.

## **Service recognition**

This tradition of recognition is a grateful celebration of the staff milestones of 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, and 40 years of service to the university.

## **Degree recognition**

Each year, dozens of Cornell staff members graduate with degrees from Cornell and other colleges with the help of the [Employee Degree Program](#) and the [Tuition Aid](#) program offered by the University.

## **Current Nonacademic Open Positions**

The list below is dynamic and updated regularly. For additional information, please visit the Cornell Careers Page at <https://hr.cornell.edu/jobs>. Contact Toral Patel at 607-253-3718 or [tdp38@cornell.edu](mailto:tdp38@cornell.edu).

- Licensed Veterinary Technician-ENFAH Emergency & Patient Care
- Dairy Field Technician
- Grant and Contract Department Representative
- Assistant to the Assistant Dean for Alumni Affairs & Development
- Laboratory Operations Assistant II
- Licensed Veterinary Technician- Companion Animal Nursing Care
- Administrative Manager, Department of Microbiology & Immunology
- Health Information Management (HIM) Analyst
- Veterinary Practice Manager – CUHA Primary Care

## **Academic Open Positions**

For a listing of open academic positions, please visit: <https://apps.hr.cornell.edu/recruiting/facultycareer.cfm>.

For information on the topics above, please contact the CVM Office of Human Resources at 607-253-4111.

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**PERSONAL HEALTH**

# Time to Put Fluffy and Fido on a Diet?

Veterinarians report that nearly half the dogs they see are overweight or obese, although only 17 percent of owners acknowledge that their pets are too fat.



By Jane E. Brody

Feb. 4, 2019

Humans are not the only residents of the United States who are getting fatter every year. So, unsurprisingly, are our furry friends — the dogs and cats that share our lives and, too often, our tendency to overeat.

Unlike their owners, however, the family dog or cat cannot open the refrigerator or gain access to snacks in high cupboards without human assistance, which means the responsibility for pet obesity rests with you-know-who.

Veterinarians report that nearly half the dogs they see are overweight or obese, although only 17 percent of owners acknowledge that their pets are too fat.

“Others know their pet is overweight but don’t think it’s a problem,” said Deborah Linder, who heads the Tufts Obesity Clinic for Animals Clinical Nutrition Service. “Wrong!”

According to Nationwide, the country’s largest provider of pet health insurance, obesity among dogs and cats has risen for eight years in a row, along with claims for ailments related to being overweight. In 2017, obesity-related insurance claims for veterinary expenses exceeded \$69 million, a 24 percent increase over the last eight years, Nationwide reported in January. With only 2 percent of pets covered by insurance, the costs to owners of overweight pets is likely to be in the billions.

Dollars aside, the toll taken by excess weight on the animals’ health, quality of life and longevity is far greater than most owners probably realize. Common obesity-related ailments in dogs and cats include arthritis, heart disease, bladder and urinary tract disease, chronic kidney disease, liver disease, diabetes, high blood pressure and spinal disease.

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A study of Labrador retrievers, a breed especially prone to becoming overweight, revealed that excess weight can take nearly two years off a pet’s life. So if you love your pets even half as much as I love mine, you should be willing to keep them lean or, if they are already too chubby, take the steps veterinarians recommend to help them trim down.

A study of 50 obese dogs enrolled in a weight-loss program at the University of Liverpool demonstrated the value of losing excess body fat. The 30 animals in the study that reached their target weight had greater vitality, less pain and fewer emotional issues than the animals that remained too fat.

But as with people, prevention is the better route. The best way to keep pets from gaining too much weight is to weigh them periodically. My Havanese gets on the scale at every vet visit, routine or otherwise. If he gains more than half a pound, I cut back a little on his meals and treats. Dr. Linder emphasized that treats should make up no more than 10

percent of a dog's daily calories.

"We love our pets and want to give them treats, but we often don't think about treats from a caloric standpoint," said John P. Loftus, veterinarian at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. "It adds up over time. Better to show our love in ways other than food."

"And everything counts as a treat, including marrow bones and rawhide," Dr. Linder told me, as well as scraps of human food offered by owners or scarfed off their plates. Treats used for training or retrieval should contain only a few calories each, like [Fruitables](#) Skinny Minis or Zuke's Mini Naturals.

Rather than overdoing treats, give your dog love and attention by playing ball, fetch or tug-of-war, which provides some exercise that burns calories. Cats, too, love to play with things they can wrestle with, like a toy mouse on a string or a ball of yarn. For pets that are too old or unwilling to play, you can show your love calorie-free with a caress, belly rub or scratch behind the ears.

Whether you feed your dog once, twice or even four times a day, the amount of food dished out should always be measured. Many owners are guided by serving sizes listed on pet food labels, but these are just general guidelines that tend to err on the high side, Dr. Loftus said. Not all animals are metabolically alike or equally active. Best to judge quantity by whether your pet is gaining or losing weight on the amount of food you provide, he said.

His colleague at Cornell, Joseph J. Wakshlag, said, "Guides should say 'Please feed at the lower end of the feeding recommendations when starting our food, and increase only if the animal is losing weight'."

As to whether to feed dry kibble, wet [canned food](#) or a combination, Dr. Loftus said, "The jury is still out as to what's better." Dr. Wakshlag added, "The calories make a difference, not the food. You can feed very little of a high calorie food and get weight loss if you are diligent. In general, canned foods designed for weight loss tend to provide fewer calories than dry food alternatives."

Equally important is to learn to resist dogs that beg for more food than they need. Dr. Linder said, "If you're already meeting your pets' nutritional needs, they're not hungry. What they're really asking for is your attention. Better to distract them with an activity."

Cats can be even more challenging than dogs. They tend to graze, prompting owners to leave food out for them all the time. This becomes a problem for overweight cats. Dr. Linder said, "I've never met an animal that could free-feed and still lose weight." For cats that come begging for food at 4:30 a.m., she suggests using an automatic timed feeder. Cats quickly learn when the food will drop down and will wait at the feeder instead of nudging their owners, she said.

Of course, regular physical activity — 15 to 30 minutes day — is important for a dog's overall well-being, but it's rarely enough to help an overweight dog lose weight "unless they're running a 5K every day," Dr. Linder said. "They're not going to burn off the calories in a marrow bone with a walk around the block."

The ideal weight loss goal is about 1 to 2 percent of the pet's weight each week. If feeding smaller amounts is not effective, there are commercially available foods or prescription diets designed for weight loss. Switch foods gradually by increasing the proportion of the new food over the course of a week or two to avoid [digestive](#) upset. And before putting any pet on a weight loss diet, schedule a vet exam to be sure there is no medical reason for undue weight gain.

Jane Brody is the [Personal Health](#) columnist, a position she has held since 1976. She has written more than a dozen books including the best sellers "Jane Brody's Nutrition Book" and "Jane Brody's Good Food Book."

A version of this article appears in print on Feb. 5, 2019, on Page D5 of the New York edition with the headline: That Furry Friend May Need to Be on a Diet

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HEALTH NEWS

✓ Fact Checked

# HPV Vaccine Protects Teens Who Are Vaccinated and Even Those Who Aren't

Written by Michelle Pugle on January 21, 2019

Researchers say the vaccine is [effective](#) against the sexually transmitted disease and can build “herd immunity” in a community.



Experts say it's important for teens to get the HPV vaccine because the virus can cause a number of different cancers. Getty Images

The cancer-preventing vaccine that protects against human papillomavirus (HPV) is effective and can even offer “herd immunity” to a [community](#).

That's according to a 10-year study recently published in the journal [Pediatrics](#).

“Previous studies conclusively show the HPV vaccine protects girls and boys from getting infected with HPV,” Cynthia Leifer, PhD, associate professor in the department of microbiology and immunology at Cornell University in [New York](#), told Healthline.

“This study adds to evidence showing that the vaccine also protects

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too,” Leifer said.

The effectiveness of the vaccine in a community setting further validates its importance for pre-teens, she adds.

“Girls and boys who receive the vaccine are protected from the strains of HPV contained in the vaccine, and this stops them from spreading the [disease](#). The more adolescents that are vaccinated, fewer exposures occur to both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals,” Leifer said.

However, despite the study’s findings, it’s not enough to rely on community immunity to protect your child, Leifer says.

“Even though this is good news, it is important to remember that the most effective way to [protect](#) your child is to get her or him immunized,” she said.

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## What parents need to know

In general, the sooner teens and pre-teens get vaccinated, the better.

“It is critical for parents to understand that to protect children from HPV infection, and girls from potential cervical cancer later in life, that their child needs to be vaccinated prior to any exposure to HPV, thus any sexual contact,” Leifer said. “While pre-teens may not be sexually active yet, they need to get vaccinated now.”

According to the [American Academy of Pediatrics](#), HPV is so widespread that the majority of sexually active people will contract one or more

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HPV infections can go undetected or present themselves as genital warts.

HPV can lead to associated cancers for women, including cervical, vaginal, vulvar, anal, and oropharyngeal cancers.

For men, HPV can lead to anal, penile, and oropharyngeal cancers.

## Concerns about sexual conduct

Despite the effectiveness of the 4-valent and 9-valent HPV vaccine types, vaccine rates in the United States remain low compared to other countries, such as [Australia](#).

“There is a passive resistance [when it comes to vaccinating boys] and more vocal concern that the vaccine would promote sexual promiscuity, which I find ridiculous,” Dr. Nanette Santoro, a professor and chair of obstetrics and gynecology at the University of Colorado School of Medicine, told Healthline.

Parental concerns about sexual conduct in many cases trump concerns over risks of HPV and associated cancers.

“It is easy for parents to say their child does not need the HPV vaccine because s/he is not sexually active yet, or will abstain from sexual activity,” Leifer said.

“However, the reality is that not all sexual contact is consensual, and individuals can contract HPV even when entering a monogamous relationship because their partner may have been exposed. Therefore, all adolescents should receive the HPV vaccine,” she said.

Leifer adds there’s an important question every parent should ask themselves.

“If there were a vaccine against [breast cancer](#), don’t you think women would line up to get it? This vaccine prevents HPV, which is known to cause cervical cancer. Vaccinating girls should be a no-brainer,” she said.

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## Protecting the next generation

“I have always thought [the vaccine] should be routine. There are data that it prevents cancers, and that’s enough for me,” Santoro said.

Leifer shares similar sentiments, followed with the concern that because of the vaccine’s stigma of being associated with a sexually transmitted disease, even if it were part of routine immunizations, she suspects many parents would request exemption.

So, how do we get parents to consent to the vaccine?

Researchers are working to determine the best method of breaking this barrier to eliminating HPV and associated cancers.

In a [recent national study](#) regarding messaging on HPV, it was found most effective to discuss the possibilities of cancer prevention as well as the safety and side effects.

Researchers also suggest [healthcare providers](#) discuss any concerns in greater detail with parents.

After all, experts say, the more information parents have about the effectiveness and safety of the HPV vaccine, the more it makes sense to immunize their child.

This targeted type of messaging will help decrease stigma and increase understanding about the importance of HPV vaccination in the community setting.

## The bottom line

A recent study found that the HPV vaccine is effective in preventing pre-teens and teens from contracting it.

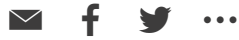
Experts say the vaccine can also provide “herd immunity” by reducing HPV transmission in a community and lowering the risk for teens who aren’t vaccinated.

Studies have shown some parents are reluctant to have their children

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But experts say that notion isn't true. They add the lower risk of contracting HPV, which can cause numerous types of cancer, is worth the risk of sexual activity.



FEEDBACK:  

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